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PVAMU THE PANTHER

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

panther@pvamu.edu



How are you spending your Christmas break?

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PV athletics through the eyes of a markswoman.

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December 3, 2003

The Panther's best and worst of 2003.



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PV men's b-ball squad amped for 2003-04 season



Photo by Gitonga M'Mbijjewe

The PV men's basketball team is ready to dominate the SWAC for another season after receiving the 2002-2003 SWAC championship rings.

By Steven Kennedy
Panther Staff

There are a lot of things to be proud of at Prairie View A&M University. We have an attractive campus, a rich history that dates back to 1876, one of the best nursing programs in the country, and a great athletic program featuring a men's basketball team that brought home the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship trophy last season. So if you happen to see some of the men's basketball players wearing some new championship rings, be proud of them because they have definitely put PVAMU on the map.

See Squad page 12

May 1 is firm deadline for financial aid

Special to The Panther

The university has set an official deadline of May 1, 2004, for students to submit all required documents for their financial aid applications for fall 2004.

According to Dr. Doris Price, interim vice president for student and enrollment services, the May 1 deadline is firm and would not be changed under any circumstances.

Price explained that the firm deadline was established to enable the university to improve its financial aid services to students. The deadline, she noted, would also help students know how much funding would be available to them for paying their tuition and fees.

"We have taken measures to put a structure in place that we admit will provide much needed improvements," Price said.

Price advised students to do their part and to prepare now so that they would meet the May 1 deadline. She said students who fail to meet the deadline would not receive financial aid for fall 2004.

Students should

See Deadline page 12

Interim dean replaces Rambally Martin returns to leadership role

Dr. Edward W. Martin has been appointed interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Martin replaces Dr. Gerard K. Rambally who has been assigned to the College of Engineering as a tenured professor of computer science in the Department of Computer Science.

A Nov. 25 memo from Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith, provost and vice president for academic affairs, informed faculty and staff that effective Dec. 1, Rambally would no longer serve as dean. Rambally held the deanship from August 2000 to November 2003.

Martin, a distinguished professor of biology

and a respected scholar in the field of embryology, is no stranger to leadership roles at Prairie View A&M University. He was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for almost 20 years until

See Dean page 12



Photo by Marques Allen
Dr. Edward Martin

•State•

PV's Seven Day Forecast

Wed.
Dec. 03

AM Showers

71°/52°

Thu.
Dec. 04

Cloudy

66°/37°

Fri.
Dec. 05

Partly Cloudy / Wind

56°/29°

Sat.
Dec. 06

Sunny

59°/30°

Sun.
Dec. 07

Mostly Sunny

61°/44°

Mon.
Dec. 08

Few Showers

68°/51°

Tue.
Dec. 09

Isolated T-Storms

64°/43°

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•National•

Four charged in death of Fort Hays State student

HAYS, Kan. (AP) — Three Fort Hays State University football players and a fourth man were charged Monday in the beating death of another student last month.

Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline and Ellis County Attorney Tom Drees charged three football players — Bradley Deary, a 21-year-old junior from Smithville, Texas; Luis Llamas, 23, a senior from San Diego; and Christopher Ross, 19, a freshman from Wylie, Texas, and Fort Hays student Jaime Lopez III, 23, a senior from Chula Vista, Calif., with second-degree murder.

All four are accused of killing Clint Johnson, 18, of Healy, a freshman business major who was beaten in a Nov. 13 fight at an apartment complex north of the campus. Johnson died two days later at a Wichita hospital.

Skeen pleads guilty, sentenced to life in UT student's death

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Blount County man pleaded guilty in Maryville on Monday to the kidnapping, rape and murder of a University of Tennessee student and was sentenced to life in prison.

Aaron Lee Skeen, 20, entered the plea as the prosecution reached the deadline for declaring whether it would seek the death penalty, Blount County District Attorney General Mike Flynn said.

Skeen was indicted on 25 counts, including first-degree murder, in the late-night break-in, assault and slaying of Sandy Jeffers, 25, just days before she was to graduate from the University of Tennessee.

Blount County Circuit Court Judge Kelly Thomas accepted the plea and sentenced Skeen to life without parole plus 124 years.

•World•

Skinhead attack injures six foreign students

MOSCOW (AP) — Skinheads attacked a group of foreign students from the Peoples' Friendship University in the Russian capital, injuring six of the students, a university official told Echo of Moscow radio on Sunday.

Viktor Ponko, the university's pro-rector, said the attack happened late Saturday evening at a bus stop near the university in southwest Moscow.

He did not give any information about the extent of injuries. The ITAR-Tass news agency, citing unidentified Moscow police officials, said that some of the students were hospitalized.

No one answered the phone Sunday at Moscow police headquarters, and no one from the university could be reached to comment.

Student stabbed in school restroom

VANDALIA, Ohio (AP) — A 16-year-old student at Vandalia-Butler High School was stabbed in the leg in a school restroom Monday, authorities said.

The boy was stabbed repeatedly in the thigh and other parts of his leg, said Steve Martin, spokesman for Vandalia city schools.

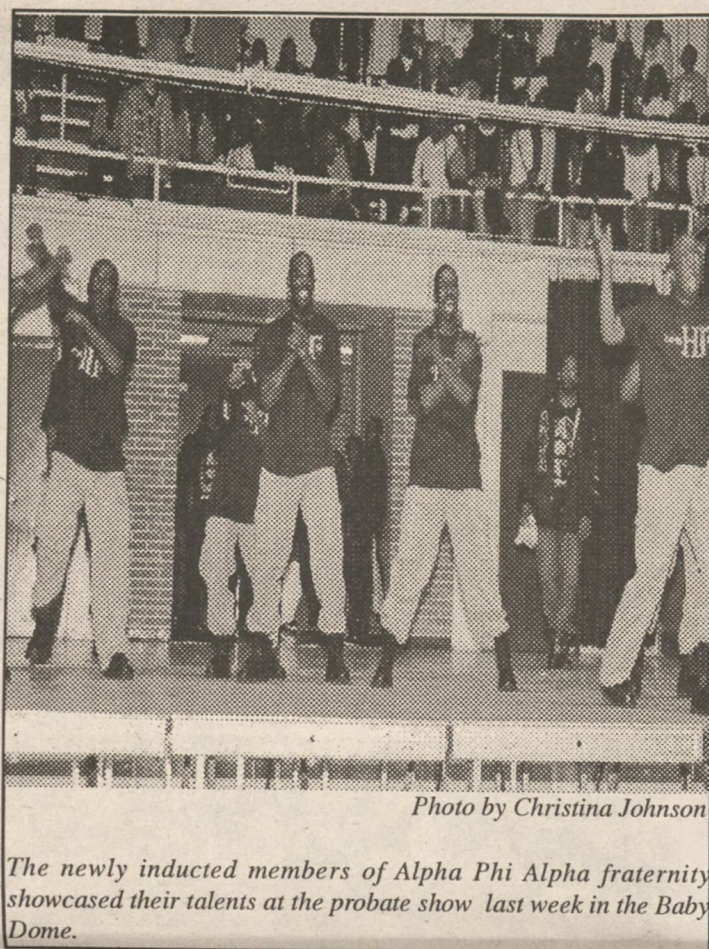
Martin said the victim, who was not identified, was taken to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton with what appeared to be non-life-threatening injuries.

The boy said his assailant was wearing a black ski mask, said police Lt. Harry Busse. Police found the knife, a medium-sized straight blade, on the floor of the restroom.

Busse said the assailant could be a student or someone who came into the school.

"It seems like a totally random act," he said.

"Ice Cold"



The newly inducted members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity showcased their talents at the probate show last week in the Baby Dome.

U.S. troops begin stabilization mission in western Afghan

HERAT, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. troops have launched a new rebuilding operation in western Afghanistan's main city, part of a push by American and NATO forces into troubled provinces to try to stabilize the country before next year's elections.

Some 60 U.S. soldiers are being deployed in Herat in the operation that opened Monday to encourage reconstruction and extend the influence of the weak central

government to its far-flung regions.

The Provincial Reconstruction Team is the sixth of its kind. U.S. forces already run teams in Paktia, near the Pakistani border, and Parwan, north of Kabul. Britain, Germany and New Zealand each run one team in the center and north.

Its inauguration in Herat came as ministers from NATO countries met in Brussels to discuss how to provide peacekeepers for Afghanistan's provinces at a time when loyalists of the ousted Taliban regime appear to be making a comeback in the countryside.

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The Panther

Prairie View A&M University's
official student publication

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Submission Policy
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9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

Is Prairie View A&M a true family?

I am in my third year here at PVAMU. All the while I've been here, authority figures, especially administrators have stressed the importance of being a family.

Recently, Prairie View lost one of its family members, Brandi Collins, and the only things done in her honor were done on behalf of the students here, namely in the College of Business. Around the same time, we lost our former interim president, Willie

Tempton.

For Tempton, there were flyers distributed across the campus and there was a picture of him and the information about his funeral posted on Prairie View's website. Many students didn't even know who Brandi was or what she looked like until The Panther, on its own, printed it in one of its issues.

It saddens me that Prairie View did not do anything in Brandi's honor. Everything that

has been done has been on behalf of the students. Is this the way family should treat each other? Of all the thousands of dollars Brandi spent on tuition here, you'd think Prairie View could have at least sent a flower, resolution, or something.

In 1998, when Prairie View lost some of its family members in a tragic accident, there were several things done in memory of those students. But I guess

Brandi had to play sports to receive campus-wide recognition. Some students tried to see if a bus could be rented so that students could attend Brandi's funeral. One of our student leaders felt that "she died at a bad time." Well, I certainly hope nothing ever happens to me while I'm here because I see how my "family" will do me.

Rashida Hubbard

College 101: It's who you know

By Christopher Rhoads
Black College Wire

Ask anyone the purpose of college and you are sure to get answers ranging from scholastic advancement to preparation to enter the career market.

The real purpose is networking.

The ties you make in school will more than likely be lifelong.

So not only should you value those you have networked with, you should be more attentive to who they are.

Many students talk to others only for superficial reasons. Maybe it's because this

girl is pretty, or maybe this guy has a lot of money. Or better yet, because that person has the books to the class and you don't.

Good try, but you're wrong — except for the "books" reason.

Network to improve yourself and your conditions.

For instance, put yourself around focused people, and soon you are sure to see a change in your own attitude and behavior. Being with those who have plans to do something substantial with their lives increases the likelihood that you will end up doing the same.

If you have old friends who don't seem to have a purpose in life, incorporate them into your new circle.

Chances are, their attitudes will start to shift as well. If they don't, ditch them. The last thing you need is more dead weight.

Far too many students don't network with others who have something to offer simply because of the image those others have on campus. There may be a rumor that someone is gay or something along those lines.

But that doesn't mean that one day that same person won't be able to provide you an opportunity to better yourself in the job market.

Don't let others

form your impressions for you.

This is probably the biggest opportunity for you to network with someone who down the road could give you the chance to be filthy rich.

If you don't believe me, look at the current president of our free world.

He's a great example of "it's not what you know, it's who you know."

Christopher Rhoads, a student at North Carolina Central University, is opinions editor of The Campus Echo.

NOTICE

Student Fee Allocation

Student fees should be used for activities that support student development. A recent review of the awarding of these funds resulted in a much improved and more definitive structure for approval and dissemination of money from this fiscal resource.

If you receive money from the student fee allocation and you are

interested in continuing to receive money or in making a first time request for fee allocation, please contact Tim Albert, ext. 2693/2694 for a student fee allocation packet.

Applications deadline dates and other information are included in this packet. Deadlines will be observed. Funding allocation will be announced in May 2004.

The Panther
would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.**Merry
Christmas**

The Department of Student Activities and Leadership finds a home

By Frankie Wilson Jr.
Panther Correspondent

Since its opening this past summer, the Memorial Student Center has been the main attraction of the school to students as well as visitors, but its delegation toward helping to provide quality activities for students has not yet been as fulfilled as we might have expected.

"It's time now to pick that up and give the students their money's worth," Student Activities Director Brian Dickens said.

Within the past three years the Department of Student Activities has moved four times. Beginning in 1999, the department moved from the old Memorial Student Center to an office in Drew Hall dormitory. Early, the next year, it moved to an office on the first floor of the Harrington Science building. Not even a full academic year after that came another move to the Delco building. Now it is finally in the new MSC.

It was due to uncontrollable circumstances with available facilities on-

campus that the department moved so many times, but it was more of an unfortunate situation for students to have a handicapped student activities office that was literally, according to Dickens, "working out of boxes."

Dickens assured PVAMU students that they could expect a "new refreshing activities program."

"The new student center offers opportunities that help us think outside of the box," he said.

A majority of historically black colleges and universities participate in activities that confine students to seeing only one aspect of life, one culture and a stigma that HBCUs are all about pledging, parties and sports. Some say there is a lack of exposure to different

cultures and insufficient stimulating lectures to the masses. They argue that students need all of these as they are preparing for life after college. So how does the Department of Student Activities plan to change all of that?

adopted some programs that, Dickens said, will be noticeable. For example, the Student Activities Department in conjunction with University Scholars, the John Coleman Library, and University College will feature Nikki Giovanni.

entertainment. In the past, our concerts have been "cost prohibitive" where an average of 1,500 out of more than 7,000 students attend. We won't lose our concerts and other activities but the budget will be more diversified in order to supply these new activities and programs.

In consideration of these new programs and activities, Dickens and his staff have pledged to make an enthusiastic effort to promote black history, and African-American pride, every day, not just in February, while encouraging cultural diversity.

The Department of Student Activities will be working with the Campus Activities Board and other student organizations to obtain feedback on what students want so that services desired by students could be offered.

The new student center has provided stability for student activities and PVAMU students can look forward to participating in an extensive variety of new activities and programs.

action, exploitation and others will help to bring back the think tank and create an awareness among our students for these issues," Dickens said.

We can also look forward to seeing more novelty acts and activities that provide wholesome

There will also be an exotic animal show and various platform discussions that will provide healthy dialogue. "Discussions on subjects like homosexuality on our campus, date rape, affirmative

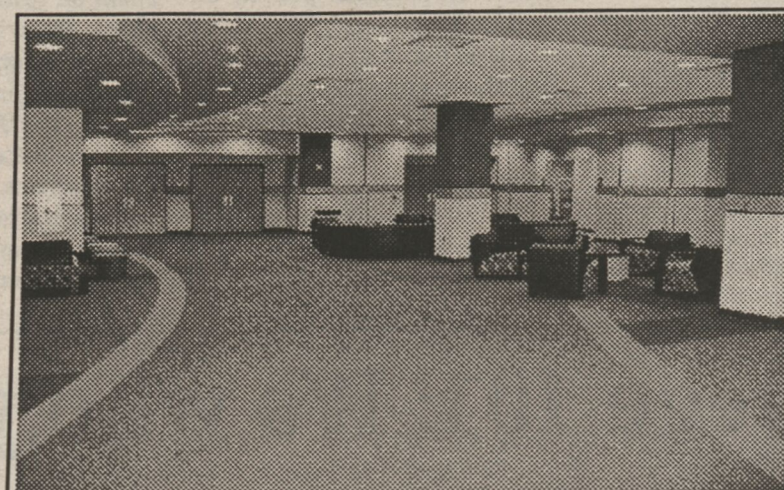
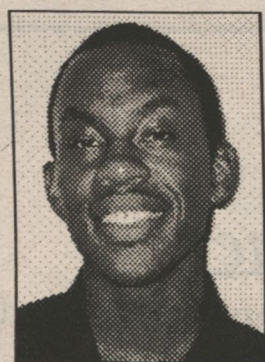


Photo By Aaron Hamilton

Student Activities, SGA, CSO, and The Panther offices are all on the second floor of the new MSC.

PURPLE & GOLD POLL

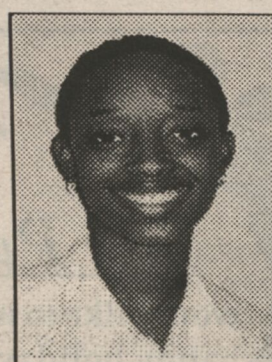
How are you spending your Christmas break?



Phillip Wade

Junior / Comp. Eng. Tech.

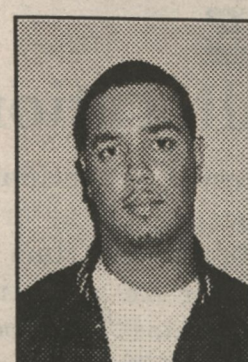
"For my Christmas break I will be spending time with my family in New Jersey and New York."



Nina S. Wright

Senior / Human Performance

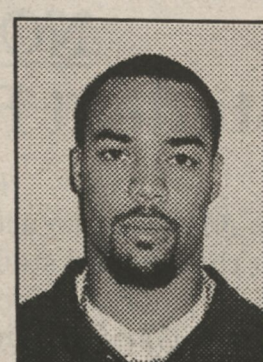
"I plan to spend my break working, sleeping, and going to Louisiana with my family."



Jason Sampson

Sophomore / Civil Engineering

"I am going home and getting some much needed rest and get ready for the upcoming semester."



Curtis F. Ray

Junior / Engineering

"I am going back to Kansas City to kick it and spend time with my family and friends."



Miktosha James

Sophomore / Electrical Engineering

"I am going home to work and visit family and friends."

Campus partners with USDA to offer scholarships

By Gloria J. Mosby
Special to the Panther

Prairie View A&M University is in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to encourage young people to study agriculture, food, natural resources science or a related discipline through the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2004 academic year. "Thirty-four full paid, four year scholarships are available for undergraduate students at the 18 historically black 1890

land-grant universities, with the goal of placing successful graduates into career positions at USDA," said Horace Hodge, USDA Liaison Officer, Prairie View A&M University.

"By applying for this scholarship, students are competing for an

opportunity that may propel them into a 21st century leadership position."

USDA provides students in the program with full tuition, fees, books, use of personal computer, software, employment, and employee benefits for each of the four years they are pursuing a bachelor's degree.

The institutions provide the scholarship recipients with room and board for each year. Currently there are seven USDA/1890 scholars attending Prairie View A&M University.

"Students must be U.S. citizens, demonstrate leadership and sign a service agreement to work one year for USDA with pay for each year financial assistance is received," Hodge said. "I encourage all interested persons to share this information with potential

Campus to host blood drive for professor

Prairie View A&M University's Owen-Franklin Health Center and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. will host a blood drive sponsored by the Eileen Murphee McMillin Blood Donor Center of the Methodist Hospital on Thursday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The blood drive will be held in the MSC Student Center.

This blood drive is replacement for blood received by Dr. Alfred I. Poindexter, professor and veterinarian here at Prairie View A&M University and a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Students, faculty, staff, and the community are invited to participate. All donors will receive a complimentary sweat shirt.

For more information, please call T.J. Pierre at 936-857-3892.

Things You Should Know

Don't forget to register. Classes are filling up quickly!

Dead days are Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 3 & 4. Study hard!

Finals begin Friday, Dec. 5. Good luck Panthers!

Congratulations to everyone who probated last Tuesday!

Head up to the third floor of the MSC and get your financial aid together for the spring!

The Village shows its residents new days

By Marquita Smith
Panther Correspondent

There comes a time when one leaves the sheltered life of University College and must own up to the more demanding life of an upperclassman in University Village. In Phases I, II, III residents live by the motto, "A New Day in the Village."

The improvements made have proved the motto to be true. Throughout this semester, there have been more security officials around the Village, cameras have been installed and there have been many more room checks. This ensures that the students are safe and well guarded.

University Village Police were second to none in a basketball tournament called "First Ballers." Three on three teams were formed by participants in the event.

Winners of the Free Throw and Slam Dunk contest were awarded \$100. Others who competed won free T-shirts and Gatorade. This was a very popular event with students.

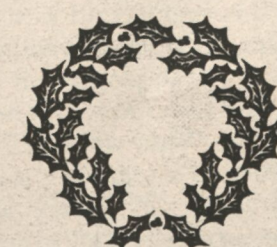
It brought many people out to enjoy themselves with viewing the game and listening to music the DJ provided. During the week of Nov. 10, the University Village presented "Women's Week," a time when women unite and become one.

Each day a different event was held in the Phase II clubhouse featuring women who discussed real life issues. With ongoing events directed towards the student body in a positive manner, perhaps the New Day in the Village can become even brighter.



Congratulations to the Fall 2003
New CSO & PAN Members!

*New members' listing check out www.pvamu.edu/studentactivities



Happy Holidays!
Happy Holidays!
Happy Holidays!



From the

Department of Student Activities & Leadership

F a i r Farewell?

By Dustin Daniel
Sports Correspondent

Following a long and tough football season where the pain of performance could be appropriately deemed excruciating, the end result was indicative of the frustration endured in C.L. Whittington's inaugural campaign. On Nov. 19, 2003, Whittington's tenure abruptly ended, after only one year at Prairie View A&M.

Despite Whittington's less than impressive record in 2003, it seemed quite bizarre that he was ousted following his initial season.

What made it seem even more surprising was that, merely one year ago, Whittington was portrayed as a savior, sent to resurrect the moribund Prairie View A&M football program.

The fact that the Panthers struggled this season shouldn't be overly surprising. No coach this side of Haney Catchings has compiled a 500 record or better during his time here on "The Hill."

A myriad of first year coaches have struggled with the unenviable task of trying to turn programs and franchises around immediately (exceptions: Bill Parcells, Marvin Lewis, Jerome Francis).

Was it the grueling off-season and practice regimen instilled by Whittington, consisting of practicing and running while the rest of the student body is experiencing REM sleep?

Or, was it the beleaguered coach's perceived petulance from coaching Frankfurt's 1995 World League title team that spelled doom, ultimately resulting in his exile from his alma mater?

As members of the PV family, all that we can do is hope that the future is more luminous for current coaches, players, as well as the next generation of Panther gridiron greats.

Panther forward comes home to shine on hardwood following rough beginnings

By Dustin Daniel
Sports Correspondent

Following a surprisingly successful season which saw head coach Jerome Francis lead the Panthers to a Southwestern Athletic Conference regular season title in his initial campaign, the Panthers are refueled and restocked, following the departure of guard Greg Burks and forward Malachi Thurston.

They've added several eager and talented players. Among the new faces is 6-10 power forward Tyrone Nelson.

A native of Hempstead, Texas, Nelson grew up in the shadows of Pantherland. At Hempstead High, Nelson used the basketball court as his personal sanctuary, amassing a slew of highlights displaying his hardwood prowess. After spending all four of his high school years on the varsity level, Nelson was heavily recruited by several division IA

powerhouses, such as Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Baylor. For a highly touted and talented recruit like Nelson, all of these schools were formidable choices. However, one school just seemed like the right selection. "Baylor is a Christian school, and it is in the Big 12 conference," Nelson said. "It was also close to home."

All seemed well when Nelson arrived at Baylor for his freshman year. Yet, what seemed like a bright future upon his arrival in Waco, turned to pure calamity, as Baylor became mired in the most tumultuous college scandal in recent years, involving the murder of one player by a teammate. National attention befell Baylor, but not for its exceptional recruiting class. While the negative spotlight persisted to shine on the much-maligned university, several members of its hoops squad looked to other colleges and universities for basketball

salvation. For Nelson, the choice was clear and concise.

"Prairie View is close to home, and they had a good up-and-coming basketball team," Nelson said. This news only increased the expectations for a SWAC title championship, and brought elation to the coaching staff. "We were really excited once we found out that Ty would be a Panther," Francis said. "We were celebrating."

Described as "cool" by Nelson, the experience of continuing his career in his own back yard comes with its share of positive, as well as negative effects.

"There are lots of fans, but lots of pressure if you play bad," Nelson said.

In spite of those potential detriments, he is focused on bringing his talents to the team, therefore helping them win.

According to Francis, the extent of what he brings to the table goes far beyond his six feet and ten inches.

"Not only does he provide presence, but he gives us athleticism, skills, defense, and in time, toughness," Francis said. This presence on the block also alleviates pressure off the back of 6-11 senior center Roderick Riley. "He makes the game 100% easier," Riley said. "Because he's able to score, teams can't just double me."

Following last season's success, students and fans of Prairie View A&M University are anticipating greatness for the 2003-04 team. Among those with lofty aspirations is Nelson. "Conference title, NCAA appearance, we are trying to do it all, and go as far as possible," Nelson said. "We have great chances, I think." Following an onerous tenure at Baylor, Tyrone Nelson has evaded the controversy, and is poised to embody greatness at Prairie View A&M.

PV Athletics through eyes of... A phenomenal bowler

By Lori Mason
Panther Staff

Bowling at Prairie View is an under-recognized sport. Although you may not know it, we have a squad of very dedicated young ladies who give it their best every time they have a match. Among these hard working markswomen is Junior Martia Ross, who gives us insight about the sport, as well as her opinion of athletics at Prairie View.

Under the tutelage of head coach Valerie Nickerson, the girls are motivated and ready for every match. "We are really looking forward to this season," Ross says. "We all have great positive attitudes and work really hard to get the job done." The Lady Panthers seemed poised to reverse to the mis fortune of seasons past.

"The new gym really

doesn't have any impact on the bowling team, because there is no weight room, and we practice off-campus," says Ross. "It's an excellent asset for our basketball team, and other intramural sports."



Photo by Christina Johnson
Bowler Martia Ross is adamant about all PV sports.

"Our track team has an excellent coach. The team works hard and practices very well, and are dedicated to going out and winning every time," says Ross.

As far as our football team goes, Martia says that it's not the coach. "The players make the team and we

can't expect to win all of our games after just one season." "Our softball team is very

dedicated, and does an excellent job on the field," stated Ross. They practice and work well together, and that's why they've had so much success." The volleyball team is one of the best yet. Ross says they work very hard during practice, and they play even harder on the court. "The

coach works them a little too hard, but they still go out and get the job done."

This year's tennis team is one of the best yet. "The team works hard, plays

well, and practices a lot." They have an excellent coach and he's done a good job with recruitment.

"The baseball team has one of the best coaches out there," says Ross. He does an excellent job in getting the guys in shape, and they are sure to have a winning season.

Even though Prairie View has had a soccer team for a couple of years, the girls still managed to place third in this year's Southwestern Athletic Conference tournament. "The players on the soccer team are excellent players. They work well together as a team to get the job done." The coach also does an excellent job in keeping the girls motivated, in shape, and with a good attitude.

Ross, see page 12

Tennis star settles in Pantherland after long journeys Bvunzawabaya spearheads PV tennis

By Regan Rothe
Panther Correspondent

Two years ago, Blessing Bvunzawabaya, made the transition from his home country, Zimbabwe, to the United States to play college tennis in Kansas.

With the change came many unexpected twists and turns, almost comical today, but most definitely stressful at the time. One major change Bvunzawabaya did not have to make was learning English, but the British version of English opposed to America's slang wasn't always easy to understand.

"In my first class in Kansas," Bvunzawabaya said. "I sat there and gazed at the teacher, not understanding a

word he said because he spoke too fast."

During his one year stay in Kansas, Bvunzawabaya experienced many things for the first time, including seeing snowfall, air conditioning, and washers and dryers. He even had a frightening ride as the vehicle he traveled in drove on the wrong side of the road, at least by Zimbabwean standards it appeared to be the incoming lane.

With help from his brother, Bvunzawabaya was able to transfer from junior college to Prairie View A&M University, where he is currently captain of the tennis team. His brother's generosity and bigheartedness doesn't end there, but it

rather served as a mentor throughout Bvunzawabaya's life.

"He is the key to everything I am now, giving me advice, and talking to coaches for me to come to the U.S." Bvunzawabaya said. "I've imitated him my whole life. He was the one who had the privilege of using the one wooden tennis racket at home. So I was forced to learn from him."

Through his brother's guidance and his own work ethic and abilities, Bvunzawabaya has played in many international tournaments, finishing runner-up in singles and winning a doubles title. Bvunzawabaya is still adjusting to America's style of playing tennis, as it differs

significantly.

"In Zimbabwe, tennis is more of a mental, thinking game rather than power." Bvunzawabaya said. "But in the United States, the game is built around a player's power more than mentality. If you can overpower your opponent, you have the edge."

Off the court, Blessing Bvunzawabaya is a marketing major in international trade and the first person in his family to come to the United States. He hasn't decided where he wants to settle down just yet.

"I may just travel back and forth from my home country to America," Bvunzawabaya said. "Wherever my job takes me."

With the help of Prai-

rie View's tennis coach and teammates, Bvunzawabaya has begun to feel right at home in Texas.

"It's a change from Kansas in the way things are done, but I really like it. Coach Cochran and J.R. (Garcia) have helped me a lot with settling down and getting through the system." Bvunzawabaya said. "I still have to learn how to play poker, though!"



Clark Atlanta Cuts Jolt Scholarship Holders, Teams

By Cecil Cross II
Black College Wire/ CAU

When Lisa Johnson finished her last final exam in the spring, the starting pitcher for the Clark Atlanta University softball team returned home to Houston under the impression that her athletic scholarship would be intact in the fall. But when she boarded an AirTran flight in late August, the sophomore wasn't returning to register for classes. Johnson was returning to fight for her scholarship.

"I was mad because I knew it was wrong and I had to spend unnecessary money to try and get back in school," Johnson said.

Johnson was one of 44 athletes whose scholarships were significantly reduced due to the university's recent budget cuts. President Walter Broadnax's decision to slash each of the university's departmental budgets by 20 percent meant slicing athletic scholarships as well.

Johnson, 20, was one of many student-athletes who found out that their scholarships had been cut when it

was too late to do anything about it.

NCAA guidelines stipulate that the renewal and non-renewal letters, which notify students of the status of their scholarships, must be postmarked by July 1. Athletic Director Brenda Edmond, who says she was not at fault, acknowledged that the letters were not sent out on time. She said that the issue is still a "touchy subject."

Dr. Joel Harrell, vice president for enrollment services and student affairs, is careful not to point fingers.

"I don't think it was anybody's fault," Harrell said. "It was one of those situations in which unfortunately the timing got off and the letters didn't get off on time. There were several situations that contributed to that."

Although NCAA rules ultimately leave scholarship renewal to the university's discretion, Edmond said that all 44 athletes got the awards they were originally slated to

receive.

Johnson isn't the only one with reason to complain. Team travel arrangements have been altered to accommodate the reduced budget, which might affect performance.

"As part of our budget restraint, whereas we would normally travel on Friday and spend the night, the football team, band and cheerleaders have to go in on Saturday morning, play the game and come back the same night," Edmond said. "That's a great saving for us."

The budget cuts have had a domino effect on the entire athletic department, from administration to the teams, all of which have lost scholarships. The men's tennis and golf programs were cut altogether, and Sports Information Director Charles Ward resigned on Sept. 15.

"The university regrets that it happened," Harrell said. "And we've taken the necessary action to remedy those students who were involved."

Prairie View coach recognized by Houston YMCA board members

By Anjeanette Robinson-Mays
Panther Correspondent

The Chair and member of the Board of the YMCA of Houston named retired Coach Barbara Jacket 2003's Outstanding Woman in Athletics/Wellness on Dec. 2.

"Ms. Jacket's achievements, services and contributions are true reflections of the mission of the YMCA of Houston," chair of the board of directors Mamie Moy said.

Coach Jacket was recognized at the citywide Outstanding Woman Luncheon event at the Westins Galleria Hotel.

This is one of many awards Coach Jacket has received. She has been a huge success based on the fact she was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame, was the head

coach of an Olympic team, and was once the athletic director for Prairie View.

To this day, if a track fan comes to the field when the track team is practicing, he/she will hear the coach screaming and motivating the team to, "Don't give up," "Push yourself," "Run through it," and "Don't cheat yourself."

I have never seen a track coach like Coach Jacket," Senior Tamysa Hill said.

"She is one of those kinds of coaches that bring out things in you that you didn't know you had."

"I am glad that I had a chance to be a part of a team that Coach Jacket is a part of Senior Anje Mays said. "Coach has taught me a lot of things about track and life."

Coach Jacket is one of the great pioneers that has blessed Prairie View with her presence.



Non-Greek organizations still hold a place on the yard

By NiRosha Smith
L&E Editor

Prairie View has a large number of non-Greek organizations. Groups that are a part of the Council of Student Organizations are very active on this campus. There are 14 non-Greek organizations that are part of the council. They are Epsilon Gamma Iota Inc., Rho Chi Psi, Alpha Angels Inc., Alpha Lambda Omega Gamma Sigma Sigma, Karnation Kourt Inc, Sigma Juliet's Alpha Phi Omega, Fraternal Order of Classy Gentlemen, Gamma Phi Delta, Kappa Kappa Psi, Kappa Psi Omega, Phi Mu Alpha. The Council of Student Organizations consists of a representative from each organization as well as the executive board.

Non-Greek organizations have been on the campus since the late 80s. Members of CSOs were considered by some to be the best steppers. Many people

assume that since these organizations aren't a part of the Pan Hellenic Council, they're different. President of CSO and member of Epsilon Gamma Iota, Tamar Walton, completely disagrees.

"We function just like any other organization on the yard. What makes us unique is that we all have specific purposes. As an individual, you find your niche in life. If you feel you'd be an asset to them and them to you, then you should join, but not because of the fame and glory," Walton said.

Many of the organizations cater to certain cultures. For instance, Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma are exclusive organizations for the men and women of the Marching Storm band, just as Epsilon Gamma Iota Inc. is an organization for students in engineering fields.

Many people struggle to decide whether to be Greek or non-Greek. There are students who have both titles under their belts. Then there are some who prefer to belong to only one organization.

"I didn't choose one over the other, it was the timing. My first intent was to do both, but time didn't allow for it. Epsilon came first because of the interest that I had for the organization," Walton said.

Many organizations are becoming "scarce" on the campus. Much of this is due to the time period when no one was allowed to participate in the membership intake process due to certain restrictions. Although most groups are small in numbers, they are enormous in spirit.

No matter which organization a student chooses, it's important to make sure it's something one would be proud to represent.

Health Hints

HIV/AIDS

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency (or Immune Deficiency) Syndrome. It results from infection with a virus called HIV, which stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

There is no cure for AIDS, but medical treatments can slow down the rate at which HIV weakens the immune system.

What Is The Difference Between HIV And AIDS?

The term AIDS refers to an advanced stage of HIV infection, when the immune system has sustained substantial damage. Not everyone who has HIV infection develops AIDS.

When HIV progresses to AIDS, however, it has proved to be a universally fatal illness.

Need To Know:

Because many of the first cases of AIDS in the United States occurred in homosexual men and intravenous drug users, some people mistakenly believe that other groups of people are not at risk for HIV infection. However, anyone is capable of becoming HIV-infected, regardless of gender, age, or sexual orientation.

Facts About AIDS

- *As of the year 2000, nearly one million people in the U.S. were confirmed to be HIV-positive.
- *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 2.2 million Americans now carry the HIV virus but do not yet have symptoms.
- *Each year, about 40,000 new HIV infections occur in the U.S.
- *AIDS is a leading cause of death for American men and women between the ages of 25 and 44.
- *Through June 2000, 438,795 people in the U.S. had died from AIDS (374,422 men and 64,373 women).
- *By the end of 2000, 36.1 million people worldwide were living with HIV/AIDS, with the vast majority living in developing countries.
- *Through 2000, 21.8 million people worldwide have died from AIDS.

www.yahoo.com/health

Freshmen shine in talent showcase

By Rashid Tillis
Panther Correspondent

On Nov. 19, Prairie View A&M University held a Talent Showcase in Memorial Student Center for the first time. The show that started at 6:45 p.m. was free. This event sparked an auditorium full of students from Prairie View and surrounding areas.

Being that this event was free everyone came out to show some true Prairie View love. There were performances by the Prairie View jazz band, Classic Dance Ensemble Co., UCFL dance team, Tomea' Coleman, Sigma Rhomeos Inc., and the Delta Sigma Theta Inc. All these performances were highly enjoyed as students watched and cheered. It was obvious the crowd was enjoying the event, by the roars, cheers, and boos. There were giveaways handed out at the

show for sexual awareness seminar. The talent show had a series of contests, like the freestyle battle, chicken head contest, and the sexual awareness seminar.

"Being that the show was free this was a perfect way to bring in the cold weather along with the spring," said Simeon, one of the students hosting the show. Simeon performed a rap song along with singer J. Stone. Talent, talent, and more talent appeared every day and the recognition is what people see. This show was a sellout even though they didn't charge to get in. Cameras were there to support the acts as they went along.

Prairie View looks forward to having this show every year as long as the students continue to participate and act in a proper manner. It was fun and enjoyable for everyone

who attended and participated in the event. The remainder of the show was held the day after and it was just as crowded as the first day. The second show was really put on by the freshman class here at Prairie View A&M University. They have a lot of talent and got the chance to show it.

The upperclassmen seemed kind of mad that this would be going on now. The talent came from everywhere; almost half the freshmen were involved. Whether it was a dance or a song everyone found a way to get into the talent of these young students. Some acts were not as pleasing to some, but everyone came out and had a good time. This show goes to show that students can do anything, and have talent that needs to be appreciated.

Texas Tech professor cleared of charges related to bioterrorism

Associated Press

A renowned researcher was cleared of the most serious charges he faced related to a bioterrorism scare triggered when he reported plague samples missing from his Texas Tech University lab.

However, Thomas Butler was convicted Monday of 47 charges, most stemming from an investigation entirely separate from the plague scare.

The jury acquitted Butler of 22 charges accusing him of smuggling and illegally transporting the potentially deadly germ, as well as lying to federal agents.

The charges stemmed from his report to police Jan. 14 that 30 vials of the potentially deadly plague bacteria were missing from his lab. FBI agents

rushed to Lubbock to investigate the scare, and President George W. Bush was briefed about the incident.

Butler faces up to 240 years in prison on the 47 convictions, but the punishment will be far less under federal sentencing guidelines. He also faces fines up to \$11.7 million. No sentencing date was set.

In the weeks leading to the trial, Butler turned down a plea agreement that would have resulted in a six-month prison term and an \$800,000 fine, said Dr. William Greenough, a longtime colleague and a professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore.

Texas Tech has begun steps to dismiss Butler.



The Answers

Weekly Update for Freshmen



Happy Holiday wishes to all our PV Family!!

UC Building News

- Building 36 Dec. 3 @9pm Take a break for Movie Night
- Building 44 Attended and performed in Actor Broderick Jones' workshop sponsored by Building 38 on Nov. 24. Maurice Rayson recited an original poem for the Actor.
- Building 46 Students with 2.5 or better at midterm were treated to a night of Laser Tag and Pizza

Remember:

- You must have a grade of 'C' or better in your developmental class (es) at mid-terms to be able to pre-register for the spring.
- Last day of early registration is Dec. 6
- Regular Registration begins Jan. 8
- Classes resume Jan. 12

Check with your instructors concerning final exam time and place!!!

IEEE offers engineers opportunities

By Katriska Cotton
Panther Correspondent

Student members of the Institute of Electrical Electronic Engineering is attending a conference soon to present papers and learn the latest technical developments in the company of their peers.

IEEE is the world's largest technical professional society, connecting more than 310,000 members and 72,000 students to the latest information and the best technical resources available. The IEEE's vision is to advance global prosperity by fostering technology innovation, enabling members' careers, and promoting community worldwide.

IEEE encourages students to join and stay on top of their chosen fields because companies are looking for IEEE members.

Dr. Sarhan Musa, professor in the Department of Computer Engineering

Technology, stated that IEEE students are raising money by selling candy for \$0.75 to visit the companies of their choice in January 2004.

"Prairie View A&M University IEEE students are in the top five regions for Houston in Electrical Engineering. The IEEE Standards Association encourages students to participate in the development of the next wave of national and global technology standards and help shape the future of technology.

"Up-to-date and reliable technical information is absolutely critical to meet objectives in science and engineering. The IEEE program produces quality, peer-reviewed publications, essential in keeping with the pace of technology," Musa said.

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The Panther's best and worst of 2003



Best comeback.....AKAs

Worst comeback.....Football team

Best business rivalry.....PU Grocery and M&M Quick Stop

Best reality show.....The Bachelor

Best courtroom drama.....Kobe Bryant and Michael Jackson

Best rapper.....50 Cent

Best CAB member.....Orok Orok

Best SGA member.....Vivian Spikes

Worst attempt to retain students.....Financial Aid

Best student organization.....THE PANTHER!!!

Best academic department..... You be the judge

Worst campus parking lot.....MSC

Best campus hangout.....MSC

Worst campus hangout.....Phase I and II

Best PU surrounding eatery....Long John Silver's

Best off campus eatery.....Beaudreaux and Hooters

Worst campus enemy....Black Cat

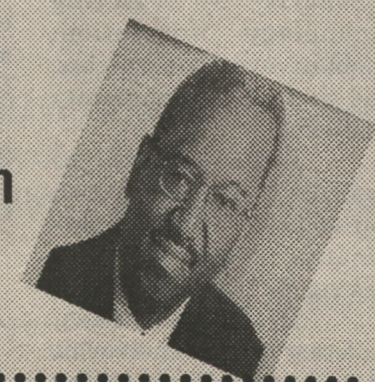
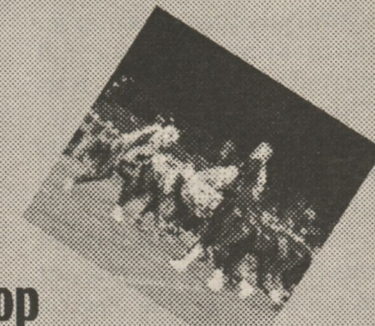
Worst attempt at technological advancement.....Panthertracks

Best accessory/school supply.....Cell phones

Best new appointment.....Dr. George C. Wright

Worst new appointment.....Ex-coach C. L. Whittington

Best band in the land.....PUAMU Marching Storm



YoungbloodZ give students highly anticipated concert

By Stephen Kennedy
Panther Staff

"If you don't give a d*mn go on and throw it up."

That seemed to be the anthem of Arista Records artists Sean Paul and J-Bo of the Youngbloodz, who put on an amazing concert in the William Billy J. Nicks Fieldhouse on Nov. 22.

The concert was the first of the Fall 2003 school year, and was "crunk" as expected. Although the concert didn't sell out, the event attracted a large crowd.

The Atlanta, Ga. natives brought their "dirty south" flavor and behavior to the stage at the concert.

Before the concert, both members of the Youngbloodz explained their background and where they

came from. They also explained their future goals, highlighting plans to expand beyond the music industry by one day owning an independent record label, and having a clothing line.

Back in the day, most rap artists concentrated only on rap, but now many artists are stepping onto the big screen by making movies, and shopping malls by having their own clothing lines.

The late great Tupac Shakur was one of the best rappers of all times, but he was also a very talented poet and actor. Besides Tupac, other artists like Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Jay-Z and Master P, have taken the meaning of entrepreneur to another level.

So when the Youngbloodz blueprinted themselves soon having

their own clothing line, and record label, the public should not only recognize rap artists as entertainers but successful businessmen as well.

The Youngbloodz released "Drankin Patnas" on Aug. 26. The single from the album "Cadillac Pimpin" is presently blowing up radios and clubs all over the country. The Youngbloodz made their debut in 1999 with "Against the Grain," an underground album that sold a large amount of copies.

Since then the Youngbloodz along with rap artists Chingy, T.I., Ludacris, and Lil John and the Eastside Boyz have been turning Atlanta into a rapping empire. Other well-known artists from Atlanta like Monica, and Usher Raymond, have made it big in the music industry.

Spike Lee upset over black music

Associated Press

Filmmaker Spike Lee told an audience at Brown University on Monday that popular music portrays blacks in a negative light.

Lee, known for directing films that include "Malcolm X" and the documentary "4 Little Girls," spoke to an audience of more than 400 students for about 90 minutes.

"I've always felt you can feel the progress of African Americans by listening to their music," Lee said. "Some of this 'gangsta rap' stuff, it's not doing anybody any good. This stuff is really dangerous."

He said some black adults equate education, good grammar and good grades with "being white," but when he was growing up, those things were seen as positive goals.

"You were not ridiculed if you spoke correct English," he said. Lee urged the audience to make their voices heard by not purchasing or viewing media that portrays

blacks in a negative way.

"We buy all this stuff, not even thinking about what's behind it... Think about the power that we have," he said. "We can't just sit back and think it doesn't affect us. We have to do something about it. We have to be more choosy about the types of stuff we support."

Lee also urged students to follow their dreams after graduation, "or you'll be sitting around, fat, divorced and miserable because you took some job, or you took some path that you didn't really want to do."



Photo from Google Images
Spike Lee

Panther Poetry Lounge 20 Questions Probate poem

The AKAs should have called girls more than twice, and shouldn't they be called 69 packages from FedEx overnight? Some AKAs made it that wanted to be Deltas. Now doesn't that just make you depressed? And which Sigma really thinks that no one knows his girlfriend decided which letters he'd wear on his chest? This is just for giggles so don't be upset, but which questionable football player is sad because he hasn't crossed Kappa yet? How many Zetas got branded like they were men, and shouldn't crossing before knowing your history be considered a sin? I know we keep mentioning the AKAs, but you know that was really big news, and now that they're back with the Deltas, do you know who you'll choose? A new TBS girl has Halotosis as her line name, while an AKA is called Leprochaun Three. There were so many 20 Questions they wouldn't fit on this page, so to hear them come by MSC room 219.

1. Didn't you already know that most of these questions were going to be about probate? 2. How did the AKAs get their line names in three days? 3. Did you know there are 5.3 new AKAs for every new Alpha? 4. Aren't we glad that we finally have AKAs with good personalities? 5. Didn't the AKAs run out like scampering roaches? 6. Which new Alpha really looks like an ape? 7. If the Alphas crossed, why didn't they have letters on their chests? 8. Was that Ludacris on the Sigma line? 9. If the Kappas are suspended are they allowed to strut and disrespect other frats? 10. Shouldn't frats just squash the beef? 11. Are the Deltas trying to have 100 girls so they can outdo the AKAs? 12. If Epsilon members are so smart, why couldn't they make up their own original steps? 13. Was KKPsi upset about the new Sigma line? 14. Are the crabs upset because they can't probate? 15. Which Zeta was so crunk that she broke her heel? 16. How many people were surprised at the skinny Zetas? 17. Who was the girl that ran out of the probate crying? 18. Is she in rehab? 19. Wasn't it funny seeing Hendrick step? 20. What do you think?

This is for entertainment only. The questions submitted are not the views of The Panther. Want to tell us what you think? Please bring your comments and questions to Rm. 219 MSC or e-mail panther@pvamu.edu. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther

Squad from page 1

Head Coach Jerome Francis Jr. came to Prairie View A&M last fall determined to turn the men's basketball program around, and he did in one season! In his inaugural campaign, Coach Francis accomplished what all first year coaches in any sport would want to accomplish: a championship. Last season, PVAMU finished at 16-11 (14-4 in SWAC competition), the top record in the conference.

Coach Francis promised bigger and better changes to the men's basketball program, and he delivered, sealing last season's SWAC title in front of a home crowd in the William J. "Billy" Nicks Fieldhouse by defeating the Alcorn State Braves, 75-64.

The basketball team hadn't had a season like last season since the 1998 squad won the SWAC tournament, and made the school's only NCAA appearance. Unlike the 1998 squad, last season's team won the SWAC regular season tournament, while the 1998 team finished second in the conference, winning the conference tournament.

One of the premier players in their championship run was senior point guard Gregory Burks, who graduated in May. This Michigan native led the team in scoring (18.1 ppg.), and also made first team All-SWAC. Among his numerous memorable performances was his 27-point outing against the Alcorn State Braves in the title clinching game. Another key player in last season's title run was power forward Malachi Thurston. A California native, Thurston finished second on the team in scoring (14.8 ppg), and was a second team All SWAC selection.

This season, the men's team will have a different look. Both Burks and Thurston are gone, leaving huge shoes to fill. That shouldn't be a problem for Francis and the squad who are more than willing and able to adjust and pursue a second consecutive SWAC title this season. The 2003-2004 basketball team will feature a nucleus of returning lettermen, led by shooting guard Kevin Cooper, and 6-11 center Roderick Riley. Along with the returning players will be some new recruits, fea-

turing forward Philip Hawthorne (Alief Hastings), power forward Lonnie Wyche (Houston Kashmere), and point guard Clyde Pride (Houston Kashmere). Wyche (6-7), Hawthorne (6-4), and Pride (6-3), bring much needed height and depth to the team in their respective positions.

Dean from page 1

he retired in August 2000. His tenure as dean was part of the 48 years he served the university in various faculty and administrative positions.

On Nov. 30, 2000, Martin was named dean emeritus by the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System.

Deadline from page 1

watch for other announcements in this newspaper and in flyers to be posted around campus on this issue, Price added.

Anyone who has questions or comments on financial aid may contact A.D. James, executive director of financial aid, at telephone number 936-857-2422.

Ross from page 6

tude.

The basketball team is improving as the years come. "They have a good coach and he has done an excellent job in bringing the guys together to play as a team," says Ross. He has also done an excellent job with recruitment.

The bowling team's upcoming season is filled with excitement.

The girls are work-

ing hard every day to make sure they have a winning season. Martia Ross and the rest of the members of the Prairie View bowling are readily anticipating getting their season under way.

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